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rationing and he has instructed the District Superintendent of Police to drop the prosecution proceedings instituted against Sri Bhadrayya."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Board of Revenue was competent to issue these proceedings issued? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Yes, Sir. The Director of Civil Supplies has been given power to take action whenever he finds it is necessary to do so."

Pre-audit in local bodies.

* 35 *Q.*—SRI P. VEERABHADRASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the expenditure incurred by the Government in the Local Fund audit, and the amount recovered from local bodies in 1946–47; and

(*b*) whether there is any proposal to appoint staff in local bodies for pre-audit purposes and recover the cost from the local bodies?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" (*a*) The total expenditure incurred by the Government on the Local Fund Audit Department during 1946–7 was Rs. 4,84,483. The department audits the accounts both of local bodies and of other miscellaneous institutions. No fees are charged to the local bodies on this account except in regard to audit of the accounts of their Endowments and Electric Licence Schemes. Fees are charged for the audit of the accounts of the other miscellaneous institutions. The total amount of audit fees recovered in 1946–7 and credited to the Government was Rs. 1,10,812.

" (*b*) No."

Retrenchment due to decontrol of rationed articles.

* 36 *Q.*—SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether in view of the fact that controls on rice, cloths and several articles have recently been removed, the Government have retrenched the respective departments which were in charge of these controls; and

(*b*) whether the Government can give an approximate saving in expenditure by the retrenchment of the unwanted departments?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM (on behalf of the Hon. Minister for Industries) :—" (*a*) *Food Department.*—(i) Controls over pulses, sugar, potatoes, etc., have recently been lifted. But rice is still a controlled commodity in this Province though the control is being relaxed progressively.